

Learn more at these websites:

www.ageducate.org
American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture

www.cuyahogariver.org
Friends of the Crooked River

www.cuyahogawcd.org
Cuyahoga Soil & Water Conservation District

www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater
US EPA stormwater

www.epa.gov/nps
US EPA nonpoint source pollution

www.epa.state.oh.us/dsw/watershed
Ohio EPA watershed

www.dnr.state.oh.us/odnr/soil+water
Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources:
Division of Soil and Water Conservation

www.usgs.gov/education
US Geological Survey Learning Web, search "water"

<http://wbiowatersheds.osu.edu/cbwm/virtualwatershed/index.html>
A tour of Ohio's watersheds

<http://ohioline.osu.edu/aex-fact/0442.html>
Stormwater and Your Community fact sheet from Ohio State University Extension



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requires cities in Ohio to develop a stormwater control plan. The plan must include public education.

You are invited to participate in improving water quality in North Royalton by:

- Learning about stormwater issues.
- Helping with cleanup efforts.
- Joining the Stormwater Education Taskforce.
- Become a speaker on stormwater issues.
- Staff the stormwater booth at community events.

Contact the committee by calling

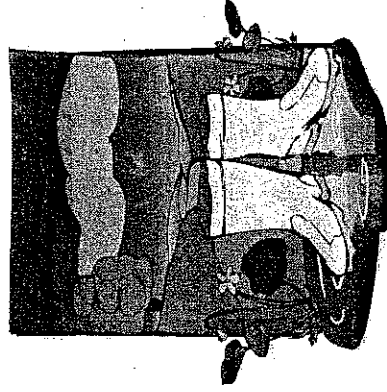
Ivan J. Hack, Jr.
440-237-4978

or

440-897-3855

North Royalton Stormwater Education Taskforce

*Everyone Lives
Downstream*



The mission of the North Royalton Stormwater Education Taskforce is to educate the residents of North Royalton on the causes and impacts of stormwater on the quality of our water and watershed.

Why is stormwater an important issue for all of us?

Stormwater Problems:

- Stormwater washes debris, chemical, dirt and other pollutants into our streams and lakes.
- These pollutants can affect human health and increase the cost of treating drinking water.
- Sediment carried by stormwater clouds water, deteriorating plant and animal habitat.
- Nutrients carried by stormwater causes algae blooms that die and decompose, removing oxygen from water, killing fish.
- Bacteria in stormwater can cause health hazards.
- Debris washed into ponds and lakes can choke, suffocate or disable ducks, fish, turtles and birds.
- Pesticides, paint, solvents, motor oil, and other toxic materials can poison aquatic life and the animals and people who eat the fish.

What you can do:

- Lawn and Garden
 - Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly on your lawn.
 - Avoid over watering your lawn and garden.
 - Keep soil, yard waste, and debris from washing into storm sewers and streams.
 - Sweep up and compost yard debris.
- Vehicle
 - Wash your cars and trucks at a commercial car wash that treats or recycles its wastewater.
 - Wash your car so that water washes into the soil, not storm drains.
 - Repair leaks and clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material such as kitty litter.
 - Recycle used oil and automotive fluids at participating service stations.
- Home Repair
 - Avoid washing debris and other materials down drains.
 - Dispose of paint, solvents, and cleaner wastes safely.
 - Purchase and use nontoxic, biodegradable products.
 - Do not dispose of household hazardous waste in sinks or toilets.
 - Inspect your septic system every 3 years and pump your tank as necessary (every 3 to 5 years).

- Pets
 - Dispose of pet wastes properly – never into the storm sewer.
- General
 - Plant vegetative filter strips along ditches, and streams.
 - Prevent soil erosion and runoff by planting vegetation.

What is a watershed?

A watershed is all of the land that water runs off as it drains into lakes and streams. Every pond, lake, stream, river and wetland has its own watershed. A creek near your home drains a small area of land. Several creeks drain into a larger stream or river creating a larger watershed.

North Royalton is part of three watersheds: the Rocky River watershed, the Big Creek watershed and the Chippewa Creek watershed. Both Big Creek and Chippewa Creek are part of the Cuyahoga River watershed. Water moves through watersheds. When debris and pollutants get into the water, they can pollute large portions of the watershed. These pollutants then end up in Lake Erie, and our wells - the source of our drinking water!